

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S E C R E T

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEF. INFORMATION. RAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. At 2100 hours on 13 July 1954, a Soviet naval unit was seen maneuvering about five miles off Svyatoy Nos (N 68-10, E 39-48). The weather was fair and the seas were calm, but there were a considerable number of mirages (sic). When first observed, the vessels were about four miles distant, moving in dispersed formation. [redacted] the vessels, which were following a northwesterly course about five miles offshore, moved into line formation in two rows. (See sketch 1.) Included in the group were the following vessels:
 - a. A large naval vessel about 250 feet long with a raked bow, a cruiser stern, and a long forecastle on which, directly forward of the bridge, was a gun which appeared to have two barrels and was protected by an enclosing shield. Between the bridge and the forward stack, there was a mast. The vessel had two slightly raked stacks set far apart, with diagonally cut black tops. On the afterdeck, there was a small deckhouse with a short thick mast or tube mounted on it. Aft of this, there was a small single-barreled gun with a splinter shield. [redacted] (See sketch 2.)
 - b. Three small vessels with a flush deck, one stack, and one mast each.
 - c. Two submarines. Only the conning towers were observable, as the vessels were partially submerged. One submarine was somewhat larger than the other and had a long streamlined tower. The smaller vessel had a tower like those seen on older submarines.
 - d. A rusty old cargo ship of about 2,500 or 3,000 tons. The ship was a freighter and was not painted the usual color of naval vessels, although it took part in the maneuvers.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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2. On 14 July, a tugboat marked M6-6 was observed towing a large floating crane on a northerly course off Cape Danilov (N 66-48, E 41-00). (See sketch 3.)
3. At the control station on Chizhov Island (N 64-48, E 40-31), there was a large number of artillery targets on the water and ashore. One of them, which was quite large, was supported by 14 vertical posts and rested on two large steel pontoons 75 meters long. The pilot said that the large barges seen being towed northward were going to Spitzbergen with loads of pit props. The barges drew 2.5 meters when loaded. Some were about 150 feet long and others were about 250 feet long and 30 feet wide.
4. No difficulties were encountered during the control visit, except that the chief of the Soviet commission was rather old-fashioned and highhanded in manner. He spoke only Russian. He had green shoulder boards with two large five-pointed gold stars. One of the officers, who spoke very good English, wore shoulder boards with three small five-pointed gold stars. (See sketch 4.)
5. The bridge connecting Arkhangelsk and Solombala, which was located northeast of the pontoon bridge, was still under construction. Work had proceeded so far that the northwestern end of the bridge already showed an incline toward the Solombala shore. The bridge appeared to have two passageways for ships between the supports under the span. (See sketch 5.) There were two very high radio masts on the Arkhangelsk side of the new bridge, northeast of the pontoon bridge between Arkhangelsk and Solombala.
6. At the Solombala Navy Yard, seven vessels of similar type [redacted] were observed. Also in the Navy Yard, there were a supply ship with no guns [redacted] and three floating docks. (See sketch 6.) It was observed that dock 2 was no longer in its usual place. Formerly, it partially concealed a large crane thought to be a dock crane on shore. This crane was not in evidence, either, but there was a large floating crane in the shipyard basin which might have been confused with a dock crane during earlier observation.
7. At 2015 hours on 18 July, the water at the Beryozovyy bar was not less than 27 feet deep. The ship's echo sounder showed not less than one and one-half fathoms. [redacted] a depth of 28 feet. The sounder was read at short intervals during the crossing of the bar, which was about three nautical miles wide at that point. It was the time of high tide.
8. At 1930 hours on 19 July, naval vessel [redacted] was observed going away from Svyatoy Nos. on a north-northeasterly course towing an artillery target of considerable size on a short towrope. The target was similar to the large one seen earlier at Chizhov Island.

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Comments:

1. The vessel was probably a destroyer. A vessel [redacted] earlier identified as a SKORYY Class destroyer.

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2. [redacted] presumably submarine chasers of the KRONSTADT or ARTILLERIST Class.

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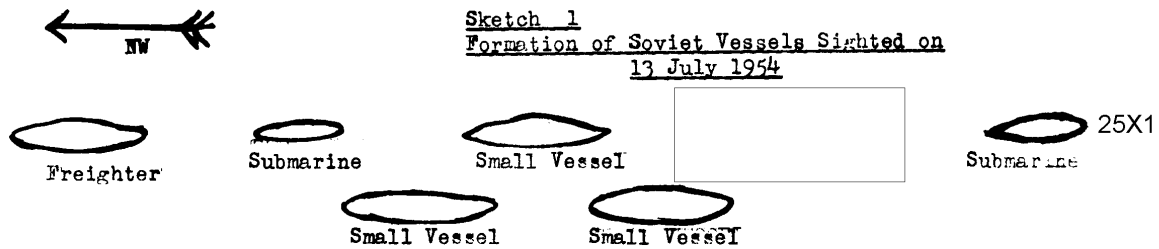
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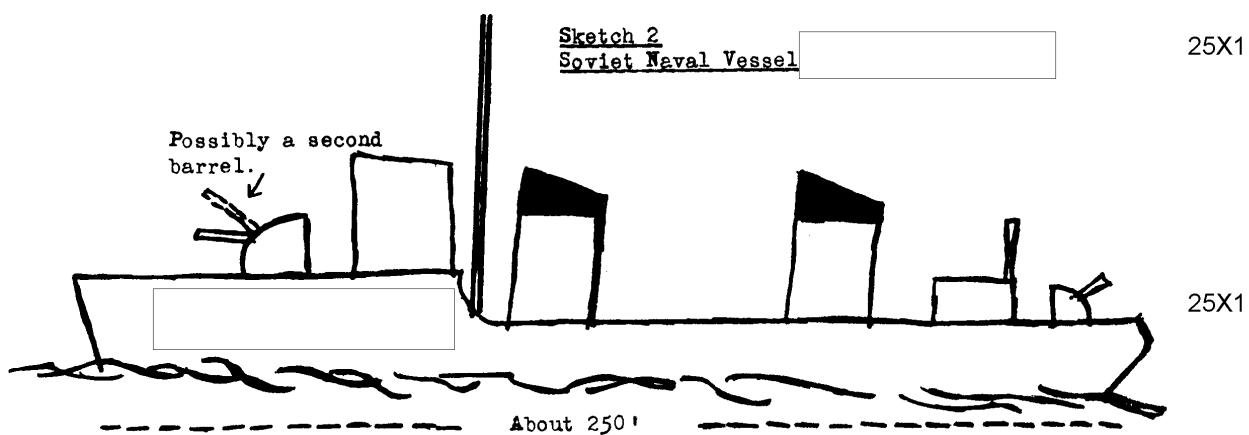
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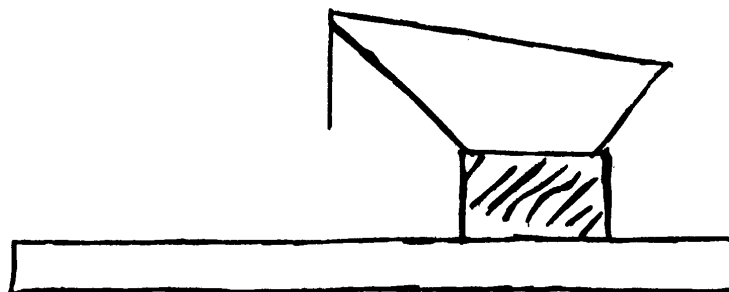


Sketch 2
Soviet Naval Vessel

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Sketch 3
Floating Crane Sighted in Tow on
14 July 1954.



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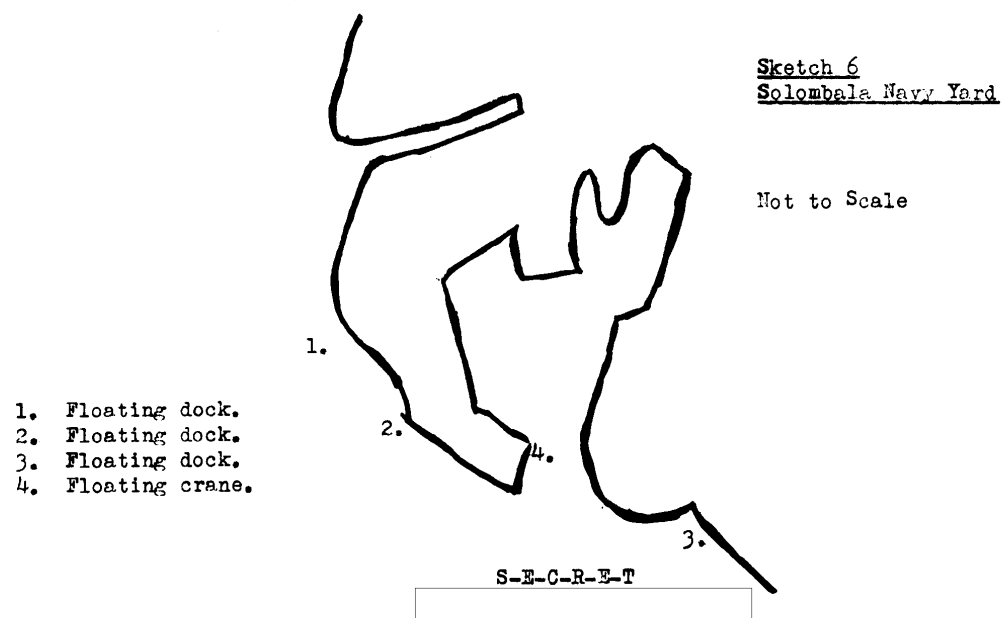
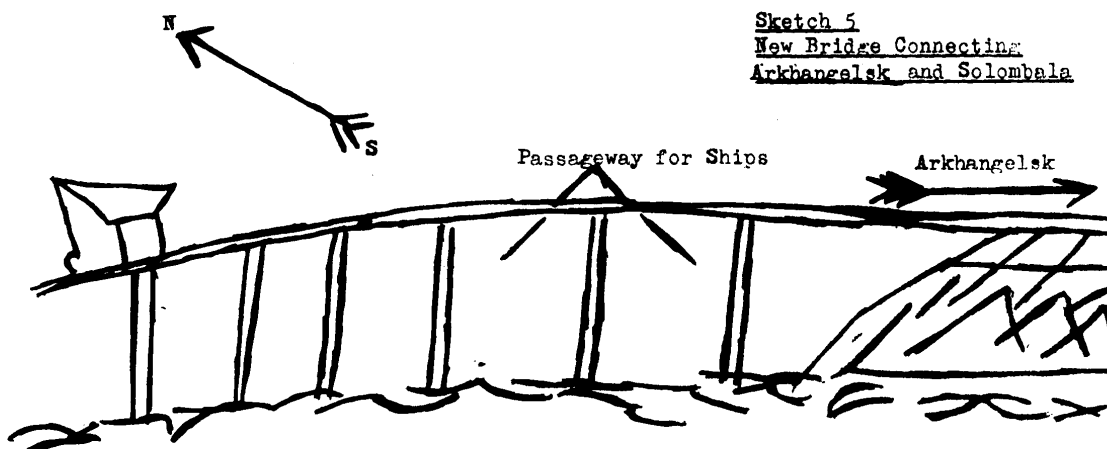
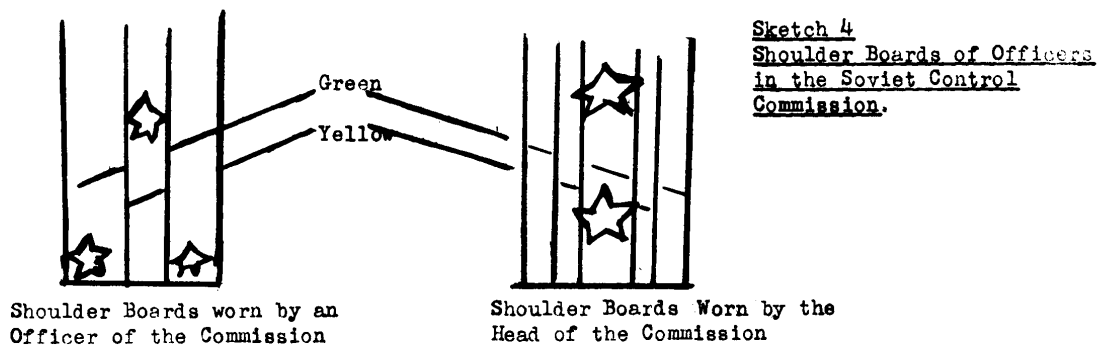
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